

# OFFICIALS ACT TO STAVE OFF COAL STRIKE

Steps to avert the threatened coal miners' strike, set for November 1, were taken here today.

Several suggested courses were before the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee for consideration.

In spite of President Wilson's illness it was believed at the Capitol that he would be asked to outline a Government policy to be adhered to with regard to the threatened strike.

## To Summon Miners' Chief.

President Lewis, of the miners, it was forecast, will be summoned to Washington within a few days and the gravity of the situation put squarely before him.

Senators explained the unions have an agreement to work under the present scale until next April, or until the war is officially ended. The issue now is whether they will stick by that contract, or declare it is invalid by reason of the ending of the war.

In case the miners contend the war is over and their contract void, administration officials plan to have Attorney General Palmer rule on the question. Coal operatives' representatives here contend a Presidential proclamation will be necessary to officially end the war.

Director General of Railroads Hines has conferred with members of the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee, who are seeking to avert what they declare will be certain industrial disaster.

## Stop Roads in 10 Days.

Railroads would be forced to stop running within ten days after the strike started, it was learned after Hines conferred with the Senators. According to data laid before the committee by coal men there is only a ten days' supply of fuel on hand for the railroads.

If the miners obtain their demands for a wage increase, a six-hour day and a five-day week, the cost of coal will jump \$2.50 a ton to the industrial consumers, the committee was informed.

The coal men also said that if the miners got what they want now, they would press for ultimate Government ownership and operation of the mines under a nationalization scheme sim-

Somebody Is Always Taking the Joy Out of Life -- By Briggs



ilar to the Plumb plan for the railroads.

"The issue is whether the miners will adhere to their contract," a member of the committee said. "There will be no compromise on that."

"If the men refuse to stand by their agreement made with the Government through Fuel Administrator Garfield, then they will have to strike, and then the issue will be whether the Government or the miners' union is supreme."

"If this strike is called, the entire industrial situation will be overturned and the country will be tied up within a few days. It will mean

great suffering for thousands of families as the winter sets in."

## UNAUTHORIZED STRIKES HURT LABOR, SAYS HINES

Unauthorized strikes are undermining public confidence in organized labor, wrote Walker Hines, director general of railroads, to B. M. Jewell, acting head of the railway employees' department of the American Federation of Labor, yesterday with reference to the shipmen's strike at Alton.

"These strikes are creating the basis for the argument that it is nonsense to recognize labor organizations or try to deal with them," he stated. "This is because the organizations will not obey their own rules and, therefore, make the orderly handling of business impossible."

## PALMER PREPARES TO SWAT PROFITEER

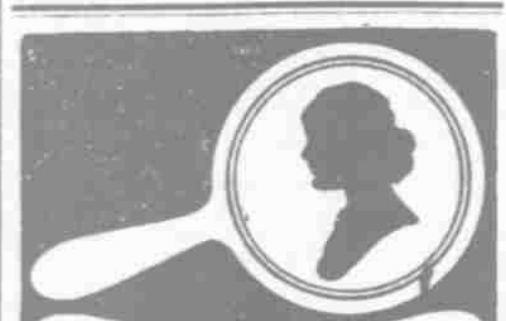
Provided Congress passes legislation, already recommended, to cut the high cost of living in the United States, Attorney General Palmer will be ready to put it into immediate execution. That such laws are expected to be passed within the near future was indicated yesterday when the Attorney General met a committee of his conferees on the cost of living question when the original campaign to lower it was put in motion.

The committee was composed of Secretaries Glass, of the Treasury; Houston, of Agriculture, and Wilson, of Labor; Chairman Murdock and W. B. Colver, of the Federal Trade Commission; Director General Hines; Assistant Attorney General Ames; Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Leffingwell, and H. E. Figg, assistant to Judge Ames.

Although the members who attended yesterday were unwilling to discuss new steps planned by the Attorney General, it was stated that a review of progress in lowering the cost of certain commodities was made, together with methods of prosecuting food hoarders and profiteers when laws are passed by Congress.

A second conference, at which Secretaries Daniel and Baker will attend, probably will be held Friday of this week.

**RADIO HINTS AT SEA MUTINY.**  
BOSTON, Oct. 14.—A fragmentary message, reporting the death of the captain and the mate of the British steamer Onato, and indicating that the vessel was in trouble, was picked up yesterday by radio stations. The schooner's position was given as about 200 miles east of St. John, N. F. A subsequent message requested that a police boat meet the Onato at New York, and developed the suggestion that the captain and mate had been killed in a mutiny.



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## URGE SEPARATE UTILITIES BOARD

Northeast Citizens at First Fall Meeting Prepare Resolution for Congress.

A resolution requesting Congress to create a separate and distinct Public Utilities Commission to administer the Public Utilities act, was introduced last night at the first fall meeting of the Northeast Washington Citizens' Association, held in the Northeast Temple, Twelfth and H streets.

The resolution as introduced by Roscoe Jenkins, secretary of the association states that it has been estimated that three-fourths of the time of the Commissioners is consumed in attending to duties incident to regulating the privately-owned Public Utilities.

The affairs of both the District government and the Public Utilities need the undivided attention of separate executive and administrative officials, the resolution reads.

## Reports Poor Drainage.

The resolution was referred to the executive committee. Thomas L. McNamara, chairman of the committee of water, lights and sewers reported that lack of proper drainage facilities in the territory bounded by Twelfth and Fourteenth streets, Florida avenue and C street, has been for a number of years past the occasion of great inconvenience and discomfort to a large number of the citizens of that section, resulting from flooding, during heavy rains, the intersection of Thirteenth and H streets.

## E. H. Tucker Re-elected.

Mr. McNamara introduced a resolution requesting the Commissioners to take such action as may be necessary to secure immediate relief from the conditions at this intersection which, he says, if not corrected might without a moment's notice result in very serious damage to surrounding property. The resolution was adopted.

Evan H. Tucker, was re-elected president of the association for the ensuing year. By his election last night, Mr. Tucker begins his twenty-sixth term as president.

Other officers who were re-elected follow: Dr. L. D. Walter, first vice president; Dr. Starr Parsons, second vice president; Roscoe Jenkins, secretary; W. G. Lang, financial secretary and Samuel Thomas, treasurer.

**WAR MEDAL FOR EVA BOOTH.**  
NEW YORK, Oct. 14.—The distinguished service medal will be given Evangeline Booth, commander of the Salvation Army in the United States, next Sunday afternoon at the Lexington Theater. Major General David R. Shanks will make the official award ordered by Congress for her war services.

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## DISTRICT REALTORS FAIL TO PICK HEAD

The Washington Real Estate Brokers' Association met last night in Wardman Park Inn to elect officers. Owing to a controversy that arose over the selection of a president for the new term, the meeting adjourned without the annual election being held.

Charles W. Fairfax, president of the association for the past two years, refused to be a candidate for a third term. Despite Mr. Fairfax's protests, however, he was nominated for the presidency, with no opposing candidate.

The fifty members of the association who were in attendance urged Mr. Fairfax to accept office again. They said it would not be desirable to change presidents at this time because the real estate men are facing serious problems.

Mr. Fairfax could not be shaken from his original stand, and the election of officers had to be postponed to the following meeting.

Four new members were elected to the association last night. They are Granville C. Bradford, William E. Davis, George T. Parker, and F. W. Grant. The total membership of the association now numbers 150.

## DRAKS STEP-MOTHER BOGEY INTO DIVORCE SUIT REPLY

Declaring that her husband, Roy S. Ashton, took their two children to New York, where he made a new home for them, Mrs. Helen A. Ashton has answered her husband's suit for an absolute divorce. She denies misconduct.

She says her husband deprived her of an opportunity to visit her children on account of the traveling expenses. Mrs. Ashton alleges "that it has been intimated that if an absolute divorce is granted the children will soon have a stepmother."

## REAL WINE AT LAUNCHING.

HARTFORD, Conn., Oct. 14.—Champagne, the real old precious \$20 a quart vintage from France, will be used in naming the steamship Hartford when she leaves the ways of the Groton Iron Works, near New London, next month. This was assured today when Mayor Richard J. Kin-sella, whose daughter, Marion, will be the sponsor, announced all the ancient and accepted rites of launching would be observed.

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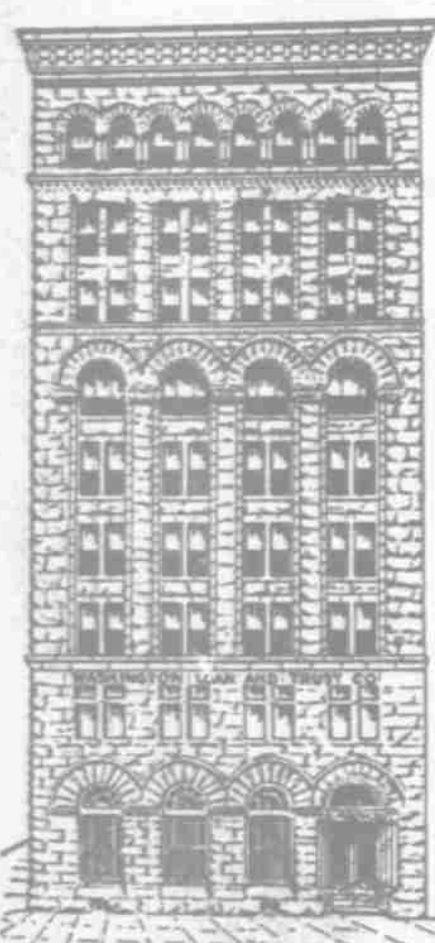
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With Self Collar, \$50, \$60, \$65 and \$95

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